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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

VOL. 22 NO. 3 AUG. 1985

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	May '85	Jun. '85
Labor Force	257,656	268,712
Employment	240,999	252,269
Unemployment	16,657	16,416
Rate (Raw)	6.5	6.1
Rate (S.A.)	6.4	6.3
Mining Hourly Wage	$13.62	$13.04
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.6	45.9
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	7.3	7.3
Mining Hourly Wage	$11.87	$11.92
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.4	43.1
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	321.3	322.3
Denver (Bimonthly)	315.9	
Year Change (U.S.)	+3.7	+3.7

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

In this issue of **Trends** *be sure to see these articles:*

—Happy 50th Anniversary Unemployment Insurance
—Two bright spots in Wyoming's economy

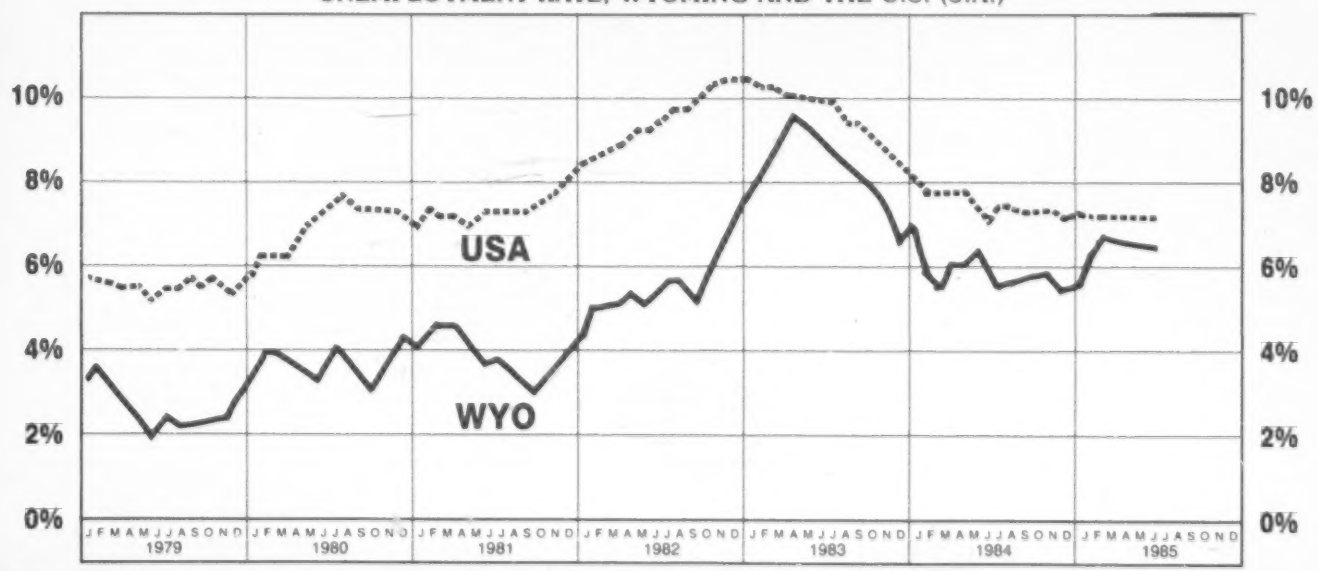
WE ARE BACK

In case you didn't notice, the Wyoming Labor Force Trends was not published for March, April, and May. Unforseeable problems required us to revamp our computer system in order to meet Bureau of Labor Statistics publication standards. That done, we will again be printing the *Trends* on a monthly basis. Some information for March, April, and May has been included in this June edition. If, however, you need something for those months that may not appear in this issue please contact us and we will make every effort to meet your requests.

IN THE U.S.A.

For the fifth consecutive month the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the seasonally adjusted civilian unemployment rate stays at 7.3 percent. June's figures also show that the total number of people unemployed is 8.4 million. Just released July data also shows an unemployment rate of 7.3 percent. However, the size of the labor force has increased enough so that now nearly 8.5 million unemployed persons account for 7.3 percent of the work force.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

WYOMING STATISTICS

Wyoming's June unemployment rate of 6.1 percent was lower than May's 6.5 percent, but slightly higher than the June 1984 rate of 5.9 percent. Table 2 shows this translates to a June labor force of just over 268,700, and the number considered unemployed is slightly over 16,400. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rates show a steady drop from February's rate of 6.8 percent down to 6.3 percent in June.

COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

June was the first month in 1985 that showed no counties with double-digit unemployment rates. Fremont County had the highest unemployment rate at 9.9 percent, followed by Niobrara and Big Horn at 7.9 and 7.8 percent respectively. Teton and Albany counties had the lowest rates receiving 3.5 and 4.0 percent respectively. Natrona County had nearly 2,600 unemployed followed by Laramie County with 1,900 jobless.

The size of Wyoming's labor force has remained fairly static since 1982, however, there are some areas that are prospering. In the southwest part of the state Uinta, Sweetwater, Lincoln, and Sublette counties are quite active with many large construction and mining projects.

OTHER STATES

May data that is not seasonally adjusted is the most recent available for all states. Of the six states bordering Wyoming only one, Idaho, at 7.6 percent had a higher unemployment rate than Wyoming's May rate of 6.5 percent. Here are the other border states and their respective rates: Colorado, 5.6; Nebraska, 4.7; South Dakota, 5.1; Montana, 6.4; and Utah at 6.0 percent. West Virginia and Louisiana had the highest preliminary May rates in the country at 11.6 and 11.1 percent respectively. Massachusetts had the nation's lowest May unemployment rate at 3.4 percent.

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATS

Our Current Employment Statistics Survey of Wyoming businesses is the source for material found here and in Table 3.

The expected seasonal increase in employment has occurred as the number of non-farm wage and salary workers increased by nearly five percent between May and June. The Service industry was responsible for the lion's share of this over-the-month increase. According to these preliminary June figures there are 6,300 or 18.4 percent more workers in Services in June than in May.

Between June of 1984 and June of 1985 there has been little change in non-ag employment for the Cheyenne and Casper areas as well as the state as a whole. The Government sector is one exception. There are approximately 3,000 more federal, state, and local government employees this June compared to June of 1984.

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

On August 14, 1935 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed into law the Social Security Act. This paved the way for a nationwide program of unemployment insurance which was designed to protect workers against the risk of wage loss when out of work. The Wyoming Legislature didn't pass enabling legislation which was modeled in accordance with the Social Security Act until 1937. At any rate on August 14, 1985 in Washington, D.C. a special commemoration was held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the unemployment compensation system.

Unemployment Insurance (UI) is a product of federal and state legislation which recognizes that there are national and local concerns over unemployment and the measures needed to alleviate it. Now in its 50th year, UI has become one of this country's most successful social programs. While meeting its primary goal of providing short-term financial assistance to job losers as they look for work, UI also provided many other less tangible benefits to our society.

For one, the UI program aids the business community by acting as a stabilizing agent for the economy during periods of high unemployment. This in effect mitigates the effects of recessionary pressures. Psychologically UI helps preserve morale and take the panic out of job hunting by easing personal hardships of recently unemployed workers. The UI system is also the catalyst for what is becoming an extensive labor market information system. This information helps the government and employers solve problems and make important planning decisions that affect the future of business and the economy in this country.

TWO BRIGHT SPOTS

Just in case you may not have heard there are a couple of very positive things happening in Wyoming's economy this summer. While some parts of the state seem to be mired in stagnant no-growth economic situations, the four county area in the southwest corner of the state is literally booming with large construction projects.

Close to the point where the Lincoln, Sweetwater, and Sublette Counties' borders intersect is the site where nearly 4,300 employees are working on Exxon's LaBarge Project. The $2.2 billion plant will produce carbon dioxide to be used in enhanced oil recovery methods. If and when they proceed with the second phase of the project, employment could peak at around 5,000.

There are many other large projects in that area, some of which are: the $250 million Chevron fertilizer plant; the Pacific Power and Light Company's $312 million job of putting scrubbers in the Jim Bridger power plant smokestacks; and Amoco's $100 million Anschutz Ranch East gas processing plant.

Agriculture has certainly seen its share of woes lately, but a couple of areas in the state feel that this could be a bannner year for sugar beet production. Both the Big Horn Basin (Worland area) and the Platte Valley (Torrington area) regions are expecting increased tonnage per acre and relatively high sugar content compared to the last several years. According to reliable sources, it is a possibility that Wyoming beet growers could see their best crop ever. Barring untimely fall freezes that could hurt the crop, sugar producers could have longer than usual beet campaigns this year. This means those local businesses could enjoy an unusually active economy throughout the fall and winter.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
June 1985	322.3	309.3	350.4	263.6	204.6	321.8	401.7
Annual % Change	3.7	2.4	4.2	6.1	3.6	2.8	6.3

WAGE EARNERS AND CLERICAL WORKERS

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
June 1985	318.7	308.8	344.0	262.7	203.7	323.6	399.8
Annual % Change	4.1	2.3	5.5	6.1	3.9	2.6	6.2

RECENT RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS PUBLICATIONS

- **1985 Wyoming Annual Planning Report;** a comprehensive analysis of labor market developments for the state and its counties.
- **State and County Summary of Covered Employment Annual Report;** gives average employment and average weekly wages by industry for the state and its counties for 1981, 1982, and 1983.
- **Second Quarter 1985 Report of Applicants and Job Openings;** comes from information supplied by Wyoming's 16 Job Service Centers entailing an analysis of job openings and applicants and characteristics of both.
- **Occupational Employment Statistics, Manufacturing and Hospitals in Wyoming: 1983;** based on a sample of these industries, this report identifies the staffing patterns and occupations comprising these industries.
- **The Statistical Review of Wyoming;** not published since the mid-1970's, this 150-page report compiles all the significant data generated by the Wyoming Employment Security Commission from 1939 to 1984.
- **Wyoming Occupational Outlook;** just released, this report projects industry and occupational growth in Wyoming up to 1990. It also provides information concerning the number of expected job openings in many occupations.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	JUN 1985 [1]	MAY 1985 [1]	JUN 1984 [2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	268,712	257,656	269,281	4.3	- 0.2
Unemployment	16,416	16,657	15,948	- 1.4	2.9
Employed Labor Force	252,296	240,999	253,333	4.7	- 0.4
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	195,500	187,600	196,756	4.2	- 0.6
b. Agriculture[3]	18,148	13,443	18,483	35.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	6.1% 6.3%*	6.5% 6.4%*	5.9% 6.1%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	7.5% 7.3%*	7.0% 7.3%*	7.4% 7.2%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	2.0%	2.4%	1.8%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 598.54	$ 593.83	$ 560.70	8.8	6.7
Average Weekly Hours	45.9	43.6	43.6	5.3	5.3
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.04	$ 13.62	$ 12.86	- 4.3	1.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	17,832	23,787	19,433	- 25.0	- 8.2
a. Initial	2,089	2,307	2,042	- 9.4	2.3
Weeks Compensated	8,151	13,790	16,744	- 40.9	- 51.3
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 2,199,294	$ 3,700,217	$ 2,380,512	- 40.6	7.6
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 146.93	$ 144.85	$ 142.17	1.4	3.3
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	4,738	4,208	5,156	12.6	- 8.1
Non-Ag. Openings Received	4,820	3,918	4,888	23.0	- 1.4
Non-Ag. Placements	4,303	3,087	4,430	39.4	- 2.9
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 513.75	$ 515.16	$ 507.79	- 0.3	1.2
Average Weekly Hours	43.1	43.4	43.7	- 0.7	- 1.4
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 11.92	$ 11.87	$ 11.62	0.4	2.6
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	322.3	321.3	310.7	0.3	3.7
Producer Prices, All Commodities	311.3	309.9	309.5	0.5	0.6
Retail Prices of Food 1967 = 100	309.3	308.9	302.0	0.1	2.4

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT
(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	JUN 1985	MAY 1985	JUN 1984	%CHANGE MAY-JUN	%CHANGE JUN-JUN	JUN 1985	MAY 1985	JUN 1984	JUN 1985	MAY 1985	JUN 1984
Statewide	268,712	257,656	269,281	4.3	- 0.2	16,416	16,657	15,948	6.1	6.5	5.9
Albany	14,930	15,253	15,119	- 2.1	- 1.2	591	722	614	4.0	4.7	4.1
Big Horn	5,441	5,286	5,681	2.9	- 4.2	426	431	350	7.8	8.2	6.2
Campbell	20,680	20,222	19,947	2.3	3.7	1,228	1,172	1,137	5.9	5.8	5.7
Carbon	9,794	9,259	10,389	5.8	- 5.7	659	721	775	6.7	7.8	7.5
Converse	7,870	7,521	7,515	4.6	4.7	608	588	429	7.7	7.8	5.7
Crook	2,995	2,694	3,197	11.2	- 6.3	126	148	134	4.2	5.5	4.2
Fremont	17,480	17,177	18,527	1.8	- 5.7	1,737	1,762	1,877	9.9	10.3	10.1
Goshen	7,538	7,274	7,373	3.6	2.2	358	337	269	4.7	4.6	3.7
Hot Springs	2,959	2,925	3,143	1.2	- 5.9	157	166	185	5.3	5.7	5.9
Johnson	4,211	3,856	4,399	9.2	- 4.2	207	216	191	4.9	5.6	4.3
Laramie	36,166	35,897	35,849	0.7	0.9	1,900	1,862	1,488	5.3	5.2	4.2
Lincoln	7,736	7,038	6,707	9.9	15.3	528	598	705	6.8	8.5	10.5
Natrona	39,142	39,620	40,240	- 1.2	- 2.7	2,572	2,640	2,737	6.6	6.7	6.8
Niobrara	1,691	1,628	1,727	3.9	- 2.1	133	181	76	7.9	11.1	4.4
Park	16,589	13,981	17,205	18.7	- 3.6	786	792	760	4.7	5.7	4.4
Platte	4,696	4,477	4,604	4.9	2.0	308	271	266	6.6	6.1	5.8
Sheridan	12,810	12,600	13,056	1.7	- 1.9	874	948	912	6.8	7.5	7.0
Sublette	2,898	2,784	2,774	4.1	4.5	133	132	186	4.6	4.7	6.7
Sweetwater	21,917	21,289	21,443	2.9	2.2	1,338	1,196	1,223	6.1	5.6	5.7
Teton	9,950	6,495	9,666	53.2	2.9	352	471	342	3.5	7.2	3.5
Uinta	11,758	11,305	11,222	4.0	4.8	823	765	762	7.0	6.8	6.8
Washakie	5,705	5,323	5,667	7.2	0.7	329	321	252	5.8	6.0	4.5
Weston	3,755	3,753	3,832	0.1	- 2.0	245	217	281	6.5	5.8	7.3

The ESC wishes to stress that the data contained in this table are only estimates. The data for the current month is a preliminary estimate and will be revised next month, and revised yet again in about one year. On an annual average basis, the accuracy of these estimates may vary from the actual figures by as much as eight percent, plus or minus.

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)					% Change on Total Emp.	
	JUN 1985[2]	MAY 1985[3]	APR 1985	MAR 1985	JUN 1984	MAY 1985	JUN 1984
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	to JUN 1985	to JUN 1985
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT							
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	208.3	198.7	189.7	187.5	207.2	4.8	0.5
Manufacturing	8.1	8.1	7.9	7.9	8.0	0.0	1.3
Durable Goods	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.9	2.6	0.0
Nondurable Goods	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	0.0	4.9
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	8.3	8.3
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	200.2	190.6	181.8	179.6	199.2	5.0	0.5
Mining	26.0	25.0	24.6	24.9	27.4	4.0	- 5.1
Contract Construction	12.6	11.8	10.7	8.8	15.1	6.8	- 16.6
Transportation & Public Utilities	15.3	15.2	15.3	15.1	16.2	0.7	- 5.6
Railroad Transportation	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.3	- 6.3	- 9.1
Transportation except Railroads	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.8	1.8	- 1.8
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.5	7.1	1.6	- 8.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	43.9	43.3	42.0	42.1	46.2	1.4	- 5.0
Wholesale Trade	9.3	9.1	9.1	9.0	9.0	2.2	3.3
Retail Trade	34.6	34.2	33.0	33.1	37.2	1.2	- 7.0
Food Stores	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	2.0
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.7	6.3	3.3	- 1.6
Eating & Drinking Places	10.9	11.1	10.8	10.8	13.0	- 1.8	- 16.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.0	7.9	7.8	8.0	8.0	1.3	0.0
Services	40.6	34.3	30.6	29.8	35.5	18.4	14.4
Personal Services	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.9	0.0	- 10.5
Medical & Other Health Services	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.3	0.0	- 1.6
Government	53.8	53.0	50.8	50.8	50.8	1.5	5.9
Federal Government	9.3	7.9	6.7	6.6	8.3	17.7	12.0
State & Local Government	44.5	45.1	44.1	44.2	42.4	- 1.3	5.0
State Government	13.1	13.3	13.0	12.9	12.7	- 1.5	3.1
Local Government	31.4	31.8	31.1	31.4	29.7	- 1.3	5.7

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

Table 3 (Cont'd) *NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING* [1]

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)					% Change on Total Emp.	
	JUN 1985[2]	MAY 1985[3]	APR 1985	MAR 1985	JUN 1984	MAY 1985	JUN 1984
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	to JUN 1985	to JUN 1985
CASPER (Natrona County)							
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	33.8	33.7	33.1	32.7	34.3	0.3	- 1.5
Manufacturing	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	7.1	15.4
Nondurable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	32.3	32.3	31.7	31.3	33.3	0.0	- 2.1
Mining	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	5.7	- 2.2	- 22.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.1	5.1	- 2.5	- 23.5
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6	- 20.0	- 33.3
Contract Construction	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.1	2.3	7.4	26.1
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.2	5.3	- 9.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	9.3	9.5	9.4	9.3	9.1	- 2.1	- 2.2
Wholesale Trade	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.4	- 2.7	5.9
Retail Trade	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.7	- 1.7	0.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7	- 5.9	- 5.9
Services	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.8	3.6	0.0
Government	6.4	6.4	6.1	6.3	6.2	0.0	3.2
Federal Government	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.0	- 28.6
State & Local Government	5.9	5.9	5.6	4.8	5.5	0.0	7.3
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)							
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.9	30.4	29.8	29.3	31.0	1.6	0.3
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.8	29.3	28.7	28.2	29.9	1.7	- 0.3
Contract Construction	1.2	1.2	1.1	- 0.9	1.6	0.0	- 25.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.9	0.0	- 10.3
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.3	1.4	- 1.4
Wholesale Trade	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	11.1	25.0
Retail Trade	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.5	0.0	- 4.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Services & Miscellaneous	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.2	1.9	5.8
Government	10.5	10.3	10.1	10.0	10.0	1.9	5.0
Federal Government	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	0.0	8.3
State & Local Government	7.9	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.6	2.6	3.9

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag, establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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